

CLAIMS

1. A method for screening a compound or its salt that alters the binding property between a melanin concentrating hormone (MCH) or its salt and SLC-1 or its salt, which
5 comprises using the MCH or its derivative, or a salt thereof and the SLC-1 or its salt.

2. A kit for screening a compound or its salt that alters the binding property between MCH or its salt and SLC-1
10 or its salt, comprising the MCH or its derivative, or a salt thereof and the SLC-1 or its salt.

3. A compound or its salt that alters the binding property between MCH or its salt and SLC-1 or its salt, which is obtainable by using the screening method according to
15 claim 1 or the screening kit according to claim 2.

4. A pharmaceutical composition comprising the compound or its salt according to claim 3.

5. A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 4, which is an antiobestic agent.

20 6. A protein containing the amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO:11, or a salt thereof.

7. A DNA containing a DNA having a base sequence encoding the protein according to claim 6.

8. A screening method according to claim 1 or a
25 screening kit according to claim 2, wherein the MCH is a peptide containing the same or substantially the same amino acid sequence as the amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO:2.

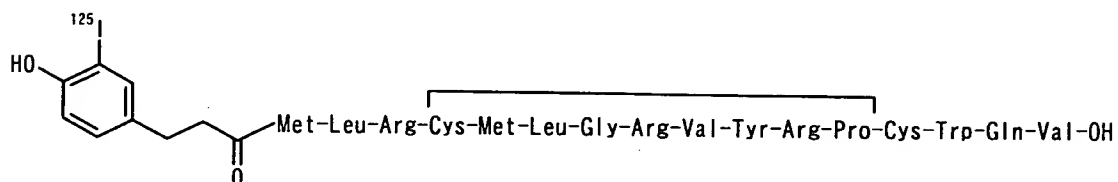
9. A screening method according to claim 1 or a
30 screening kit according to claim 2, wherein the derivative is a peptide containing a sequence of the 5th to the 19th from the N terminus of the amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO:2.

10. A screening method according to claim 1 or a
35 screening kit according to claim 2, wherein the derivative

is MCH derivatized with a Bolton-Hunter reagent or a peptide derivatized with a Bolton-Hunter reagent and containing a sequence of the 5th to the 19th from the N terminus of the amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO:2.

- 5 11. MCH derivatized with a Bolton-Hunter reagent, or a peptide or its salt derivatized with a Bolton-Hunter reagent and containing a sequence of the 5th to the 19th from the N terminus of the amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO:2. .

- 10 12. A compound represented by formula:



or its salt.